

HOME AND SOCIETY.

CHAT OF THE SEASON.

THE MODERN YOUNG ENGLISHMAN—MISS MIDAS'S GOOD LUCK—SOME FASHIONS FROM PARIS—THE NEW BODICES—RUSSIAN DISHES—METHODS OF TRIMMING SKIRTS—HOW TO COOK FISH.

"There is certainly a great change," said a middle-aged woman of society, "between the young Englishman of my time and the young Englishman of to-day. When I was a girl an Englishman was considered the best type of a good-looking, well-bred, blue-blooded young man among my set of girls, and in our minds he was considered him quite superior to our American brothers; but now it is quite different. To be sure, there is still the craze for everything English, but it is for titles, places, manners and customs, and not for the Englishmen themselves. Whether it is that the latter have 'gone off' in late years, or whether our own youths are improving immensely, I do not know; but I was quite struck with the difference between the past and the present when hearing my daughter comment the other day upon the physical difference between the American young men and the Englishmen of her acquaintance.

"How can you say, mamma?" she exclaimed, indignantly, "that Englishmen are better looking and better 'grounded' than our own men? Most of the specimens I have seen of the British youth have been wretched little scurves. Now, just go over in your mind the fashionable young ladies that have been over here for the last two or three years—and certainly the travelled man must be the best exponent of the leisure class—and tell me if you think they compare favorably with my brother and his friends."

"I was obliged to own that she was right, and that the old glamour about Englishmen had disappeared."

Many a child whose parents are in moderate circumstances looks enviously at Little Miss Midas as she canters gayly in the Park on her pretty pony or drives in her well-appointed little dog-cart among the other equipages. She has, by no means, the easy time that might be imagined by people who only see her outside life. "Noblesse oblige" is a proverb that a fashionable young lady has to learn very early indeed, for there is never a moment that she can really call her own. Even her riding and driving are part of her training, and must be considered seriously and not in the light of an idle amusement. Not only must the modern maiden be thoroughly educated in all the social branches, but she must be an accomplished musician, a thorough linguist, somewhat of an artist; she must learn to ride well, to dance gracefully and dress with taste; she must have fencing lessons, Delaistean exercises and gymnastics. In short, there is nothing that our maiden must not acquire, or try to acquire, if money can buy it; and doubtless there is many a time when the poor, over-driven child would gladly change places with an apparently less fortunate lassie who has her long leisure hours of freedom.

The latest reported quotations from the matrimonial market are as follows: German barons, \$17,000; French counts, \$80,000 to \$200,000, according to family, place, etc. In Indian princes the stock is very speculative, the title sometimes going as high as \$300,000 and at other seasons falling to a ridiculously low figure. In fact all the Continental patients of nobility may be said to have fictitious value and fluctuate considerably, but for solid investment there is nothing like English titles. These have increased in value enormously of late years, and it now takes \$60,000 to \$100,000 to buy a nobleman of high rank.

This increasing craze for rank on the part of American mothers and daughters—"to do justice, pettymothers is as a rule indifferent to such empty honor, and only buys his child the coveted bauble simply to please, or may be to quiet, his womanhood—is a very curious phase of our fine-society civilization. It is certainly not a dignified nor a debrilliant development on the part of the daughters of the Republic; but, while English people are wont to count seriously—and perhaps justly—upon our republican nobility, they seem to forget that the intense greed and rapacity for American dollars displayed on the part of their peers does not stand more discreditably. Quite a new departure has been inaugurated in these latter-day transactions, which proves that the British youth has a commercial instinct that would do credit to the keenest Yankee. Not only does he now require that his bride shall be endowed with an immense fortune, but he pleasantly anticipates her demise, and demands that not merely shall papa-in-law's money be settled on himself and her children, but that the heritage shall enrich his noble family in case of widowhood. In the mean while, with the ingenuous and brutal frankness of his class, he speaks confidently of the time when he shall have "shunted" off his American connections forever.

"Have people gone crazy?" said an intelligent American mother the other day, "that they actually put a price upon a daughter's life, and send her among strangers who have everything to gain and nothing to lose by her death?"

"What a dreadfully grecious idea!" said her companion, rather shocked.

"Well, what is it but that I should like to know? You can't deny that if they grow tired of her they would rather have her money without the encumbrance."

It is said that certain enterprising persons here, as well as in London and Paris, have organized firms for leasing out wedding dresses. The latter can now be hired, and for a comparatively small sum a bride may be provided with a splendid costume without the necessity of retaining it for the remainder of her days. There is no reason, however, why this scheme should stop at wedding dresses. The system might be extended to the wedding presents. The requisite number of bracelets, rings, dishknives and tea services could be hired, and after serving their time in the display on the wedding day, be returned. The real presents could then take the infinitely more convenient and useful forms of checks, and married couples would not then be compelled, as they often are now, to take a house for the mere purpose of storing away their useless belongings.

There is scarcely any person in existence that does not possess an antibiotic in the form of some other person, and it may be taken for granted that it was this well-known principle of our evil correcting ancestors which prompted the matchmaking mothers and chaperones in Mayfair to create the new profession of "cutter-out."

The particular evil which the "cutter-out" is called upon to combat is the "detrimental." The latter is the term of all parents with ne'er-do-well daughters. He is usually a young man of excellent family, and one whose personal charms are as great as his present means and future prospects are small. He is therefore most undesirable, partly from a matrimonial point of view, for if his attentions rest on the maidens of the domestic happiness of the young couple, generally induced by pecuniary considerations and circumstances, while he in his turn has fair virtue to the star his courtship has at any rate served to keep away more desirable suitors, and as often as not to disturb the peace of mind of the young girl. We live in a very progressive age, and there is no doubt that women, especially mothers and chaperones, possess much more common sense and level-headedness than in days of yore. They have gradually come to realize that open resistance is impolitic in cases where their fair charges have lost their hearts to men whose suit is not approved of by the family. They know that opposition merely fans the flame of passion, and that to manifest any undisguised antagonism to the coupling is only to precipitate the undesirable climax thereof—namely, matrimony. Instead, therefore, of making any attempts to put a stop to the intercourse between the "detrimental" and the girl, the Mayfair chaperon now quietly engages the services of a professional "cutter-out," and if we are to believe one of our London contemporaries there is actually an office in the vicinity of Mayfair from which "cutter-outs" may be obtained on application by letter or telegram.

The "cutter-out" may be described as a professional媒紳 who practices his profession for the sake of hire. He is young, he is handsome and he is well born. Not infrequently he has a handle to his name in the shape of a title. In fact he serves most, if not all, of those personal charms which have served to attract the girl to the "detrimental." In one word, his object is to cut the latter out, to make the damsel out of conceit with that objectionable individual, and then, after having accomplished the object for which he is paid, to retire graciously—in short, to disappear. His duties are therefore very simple: he has merely to make love, and then, in the words of the poet, to "ride away." It is stated that the services of a fine, handsome and manly "cutter-out" may be secured at a comparatively moderate outlay, a percentage of the money going to the office of the association. Of course there is danger that he may take his part too seriously, but it seems that instances thereof are rare, by reason of the knowledge

which the "cutter-out" possesses that his market value would be injured thereby and an extremely profitable source of income cut off.

PARIS FASHIONS.

QUANTITIES OF LACE A CHARMING FOUR-LAYER GOWN.

A great deal of lace is to be worn this season—lace in the shape of yokes, ruffles, berths, berettes, berettes and especially insertions. Most of the prettiest forms of silk garments just made have rows of guipure insertions running round the skirts and down the sleeves and, so far guipure and chantilly have ruled.

Here is one of the daintiest and prettiest of little wraps for the coming season. The scarf of black guipure lace is gracefully draped at the shoulders.



The yoke, with its high collar, is of black velvet trimmed with lines of fine-cut jet, and the waist is tied with the coquettish little wrap to the waist is of satin ribbon.

There is nothing more bewitching in the way of a wrap than a pretty trifle like this, whose flowing lines of lace soften and grace the whole figure, and whose velvet yoke, with its sparkling jets, gives tone to the complexion.

Here is a simple and refined summer gown of figured foulard. The skirt has five rows of satin ribbon placed on smoothly. The bodice, sleeves and



girdle are ornamented with the same ribbon as shown in the cut. This is an admirable model for a foulard and chiffon costume.

A plump morning costume is in cloth loosely woven in threads of navy blue and white. The pointed



vest, the bertha and the ruffle bordering the skirt are in plain navy blue cloth, trimmed with cream-colored soutache. The girdle is in navy blue also and is trimmed with the creamy braid; so is the collar. The hat is of rough straw, with plints of white in its navy blue braiding.

THE NEW BODICES.

The new bodices of taffeta silks are generally quite full. They are made with berettes or wide collars and cuffs of Venetian guipure or Russian embroidery; or where the skirt is tailored with ruffles, edged with point d'esprit or Valenciennes lace, there is a deep cuff of silk surrounding the shoulders in beretlike fashion, slightly edged with lace. Where this extreme draping effect is not becoming, the bertha is made a simple placket on the shoulder to give a slight bouffant to the top of the sleeve. Tails are caught to most women but the full, sloping effect is more becoming to most women than the flat, sloping effect of the beret-like bertha.

Combination of colors are seen on some of the handsomest French dresses. Thus a new gown of satin of Lyons, a tablier which is revives with sister silks, is made of turquoise blue, combined with Havana brown. The upper part of this gown was fitted with perfect smoothness around the hips, and was of the turquoise blue; but the deep Spanish flounce that fell from the knee was made of the brown satin, with two narrow ruffles with rolled edges around the bottom and two similar ruffles at the knee, where the flounce joined on the skirt. The bodice of this gown was finished with a fall of guipure lace, in which its

acquires new virtues. This, with the "Campanelle

crossed papers to dry. It sometimes takes several weeks for them to dry, but they are very nice when they are done.

For orange biscuits, boil large Valentine oranges, chop them into halves and then they can be prepared with a strainer. Remove the peel. Let it be cooked a little dry. Pound it to a fine powder in a mortar. Mix it with a few eggs, add a little sugar, spread it out upon a thin layer, and let it dry thoroughly in the fire or in the sun. Do not attempt to make this preserve with Florida oranges, for though the pulp of the Florida orange is superior to any other as fruit, yet the skin to be used for confectionery is far inferior to the cheap Mediterranean oranges.

For "soufflés" they may make a round of good puff paste the size of a large plate on half of this good layer of boiled rice which has had two rounds of tartare sauce with it, and add with pepper and salt on the rice put a thick layer of boiled rice, carefully raising up all the bones first. On the fish place hard-boiled eggs chopped small, sprinkle a little pepper and salt over the fish, and the other half of the rice. Then press the edges well together, brush over the top with some beaten egg and strong brandy over it. Then take half a dozen hard-boiled eggs cut in small pieces, and place them on the meat, cover the "soufflé" brush it over with white of egg and butter.

On a partboard and roll it tightly; transfer it then to a well-greased baking pan and roll it out on it until it is as thin as possible. Then lay on it the filling composed of meat, rice, cabbage, onions, carrots, turnips, etc., and then a layer of paste, cement the edges as neatly and firmly as possible with white of egg, bones, etc., when "soufflé" over with white of egg and butter.

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GOWNS FOR WEDDINGS.

WHAT FAIR AMERICANS WILL WEAR ON THEIR WAY TO CHICAGO.

A great many fashionable dressmakers are now busy with travelling gowns designed for visitors to the World's Fair. The most fashionable material for this purpose is buck silk. This is imported in dark, plain colors, serviceable blues and browns, which are preferred to the changeable hopsack seen earlier in the season.

The changeable hopsack